Indian exports in post-WTO Environment

897. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian exports to other countries have gained momentum since India became a member of World Trade Organisation (WTO);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the imports have also gone up; details thereof; and

(d) items on import of which Government are considering removal of restrictions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) The World Trade Organisation has come into being with effect from 1 January, 1995. It is too early to say whether Indian exports have gained momentum or increased since then.

(d) Export-Import Policy, inter-alia aims at imparting greater transparency and minimising quantitative restrictions, licensing and other discretionary controls. Trade policy review is an ongoing exercise and suitable decisions are taken from time to time.

Trade deficit during 1994-95

898. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the trade deficit during April-January, 1994-95 is higher at $ 1,837.41 million as compared to dollar 581.68 million during April-January, 1993-94 as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 2nd March, 1995; if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government expects India's exports during this year ending with a growth rate of 20 per cent; indicating the estimated exports during April-January, 1994-95 as against April-January, 1993-94 as well as corresponding period in 1992-93;

(c) whether Government expects higher imports during April—January, 1994-95 as against the corresponding period in 1993-94 indicating the growth rate as assessed by Government including the overall growth rate of non POL imports; and

(d) what are the details of imports this year of essential items for public consumption particularly of sugar, edible oil, synthetic cotton yarn knitted fabric yarn etc.; give details till date with reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Details of imports, exports and trade deficit during April-January, 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95 etc. are given in the statement. (*See* below)

(d) Requisite details of imports for the period April-December, 1994 the latest period for which commodity-wise date are available in the current year as follows:

	US dollar Million
1. Sugar	711.02
2. Edible Oil	139.55
3. Synthetic and regenerated fibre	84.11
4. Textile Yarn fabrics	238.46